



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994
133 S. Fitzhugh St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029
ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): former District School #12
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 392 Elm Grove Road (N.E. corner of old Ridgeway Ave.)
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Gillie & Louise Cooper ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14606
6. USE: Original: school Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: composition board
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = fieldstone. -front entrance
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
b. wood frame with light members ☐
(if known) c. masonry load bearing walls ☒
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☐ c. fair ☒ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"Here's a case where the later additions could be easily taken off, so there's some hope for this building. It is unusual - strange to see those smaller 'transom' type windows going half way up the east & west sides. Let's make this a 'green plus' with the idea that it could go up to a 'red' if someone sensitively rehabilitated it. You don't have many brick school houses in Greece." P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green plus +

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☒ - attached
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: deciduous trees & shrubs; coniferous trees
j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☐
d. densely built-up ☒ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1864 (per stone plaque on facade)

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: educational: 19th century school house

11c.

Building converted into a residence c. 1923.

The original, long, 4/4, double-hung windows with stone lintels and sills (visible on south and east elevation in the historic photo) have been altered. The windows on the south facade have been shortened (note brick infill under the stone sills). The long windows on the west elevation have been divided into a small square window (top) and a larger rectangular window (bottom); a section of newer brick infill separates the two windows.

The windows on the east elevation are obscured by a post-World War II, shed-roofed addition.

The original long, louvered wood shutters have been removed from the windows.

The eaves have been covered with aluminum siding.

The one-story entrance porch on the south elevation has contemporary aluminum siding and 1/1 double-hung windows.

17. The former District School #12 is located on a .7-acre lot at the northeast corner of old Elmgrove Road and old Ridgeway Avenue in the southwest quadrant of the town. The present Elmgrove Road is approximately 100' west of this property. The property includes a lawn on the west, south, and east sides of the former school. The front elevation faces old Ridgeway Avenue. The surrounding neighborhood includes mid 19th to early 20th-century houses. The Erie Canal is located approximately 300' east of the site.

18. The former District School #12 is a one-story, mid-19th century, vernacular school building constructed of brick with limestone trim. A stone watertable wraps around the building above the foundation. A brick chimney (appears to be a replacement) is located on the east slope of the gabled roof.

The building is a rectangular plan with a low-pitched, front-gabled roof. Extending from this block is a contemporary, one-story, shed-roofed addition to the east. A one-story, enclosed entrance porch projects from the facade. The south facade is divided into three sections: recessed panels flanked by flat pilasters. The center section has a stone

18. continued

plaque above the front entrance. The upper part of the plaque is only partially legible (it appears to read "District School"). The lower section of the plaque reads "Erected 1864." The windows in the facade are 20th-century, 1/1 double-hung sash with the original stone lintels. The original windows here were approximately 20" longer; this lower section has been infilled with brick.

The west and east elevations are divided into three recessed panels flanked by flat pilasters. The original long windows were located in the center of each of these three sections. Presently, the window openings have been divided into a small square window (sliding sash) at the top and a rectangular window (1/1 sash) below. They are separated by brick infill.

The north elevation is divided into two recessed panels with flanking flat pilasters. There are no windows in this elevation.

20. The District School #12, built in 1864, is architecturally significant as a representative example of mid 19th-century public architecture in the town. It is the only surviving 19th-century, brick, district school house in Greece. The building is historically significant for its role in the development of the town's school system.

The simple styling of mid 19th-century school house architecture is seen in this building, a rare survivor of a once-common building type. The front-gabled, rectangular plan and the one-room school interior (now converted to residential use) were typical of dozens of buildings that were located in this region. Other 19th-century Greece district school houses that were constructed of brick include: District #1 at Hanford's Landing, District #11 at Ridge and Mt. Read roads, Lane's Corners School (Joint District #14) on Wilder and Manitou Roads and District #16 on Ridge Road (opposite Ridgmont Country Club).

Much of the exterior design and materials remain intact. The removal of the contemporary east addition and the reconstruction of the original window configuration would increase the architectural significance of this building.

The 1852 county map shows a building marked "School House" at this northeast corner site in the South Greece hamlet. It

20. continued

was apparently an earlier building. The present school has a stone facade plaque that reads: "Erected 1864."

The 1872 maps shows a building marked "School No. 12" on this site. The Erie Canal is to the east. The road in front of the school (old Ridgeway Ave.) continues east to the main bridge crossing over the canal.

South Greece, a little hamlet also known as "Henpeck" (some say because its residents claimed to be greatly "henpecked" by their spouses), once had much activity in its daily life, centered around the canal and the Niagara Falls Branch railroad station located slightly south of the intersection of Elmgrove Road and Ridgeway Avenue.

At its height, canal warehouses, groceries, an inn and this school house ringed the canal's banks. Here was the distinctive residence of Dr. Adiel Buell at 355 Elmgrove Road, his office and that of his son, Dr. Emsley Buell, who lived just down the road. There was a post office, the Eight Mile Grocery Store, a blacksmith shop, a wire weaving shop, a dry house for preserving fruit and a small scattering of houses.

The 1902 county map shows this building as a brick "School" on the northeast corner of Big Ridge Road (present old Ridgeway Ave.) and S. Greece Road (unnamed on the map). The "Henry Brinker Estate" owns the 6.15-acre property (two houses and three outbuildings) to the east, bordering the canal and bridge crossing.

In 1923, the new "Elmgrove School" opened south of here, to serve the students living in District #12. The former school house at 392 Elmgrove Road was converted into a residence.

The 1924 map shows the early 20th-century changes in the hamlet. The most dramatic is the realignment of the Erie Canal. The new "Barge Canal" channel was constructed to the south of the earlier canal. A new bridge was constructed to the north of the former crossing. They removed the earlier bridge just east of this school house and the roadway (old Ridgeway Ave.) became a dead end at the canal. The former school is still marked as "School No.12." However, its use as a residence is indicated by the listing of an individual owner, A. Palmer. The 1930 suburban directory shows William

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and Asenath Palmer here; he is listed as a fireman.

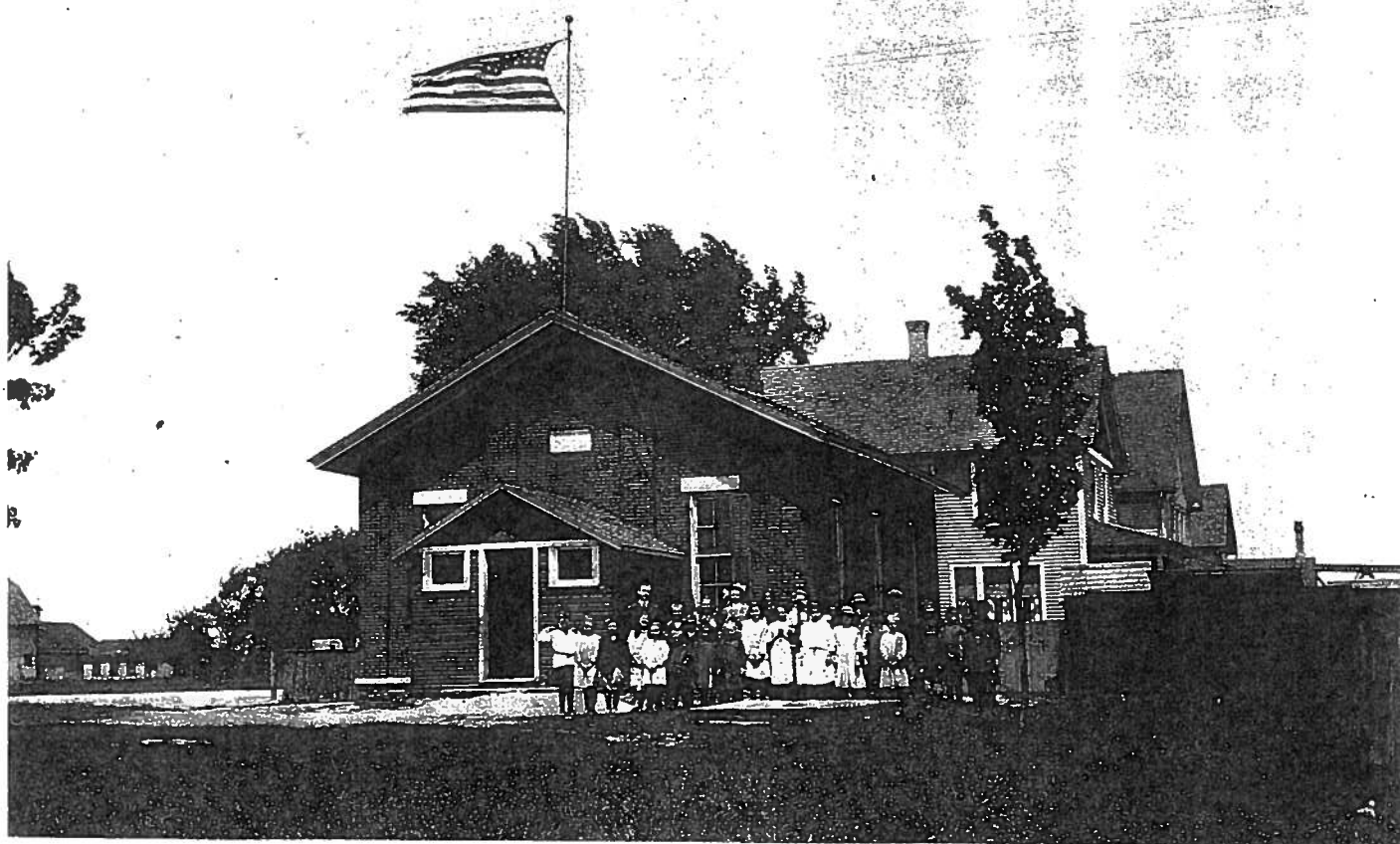
The 1959 county map shows this building. A small masonry east addition is also indicated. Ridgeway Avenue runs east-west in front of the former school (dead ends at the canal). Elmgrove Road curves northeast to cross the canal at the early 20th-century bridge (east of the present bridge/roadway).

The present Elmgrove Road canal bridge appears to have been constructed c. 1960s-80s.

21. See final report for bibliography.



#11 School - North side of Ridge Road near Mt. Read Blvd., opposite VerHulst Farm Market, on the site of a present shopping plaza, stood this two-room brick and shingle school house.



District #12 - South Greece - The red brick school house at "Henpeck" was succeeded by a modern structure further south at 425 Elmgrove Road.

Erected 1864.



